

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

“Water and Fire: Impacts of Climate Change”

April 10–11, 2016

California State University, Sacramento (CSUS), Sacramento, California

The **Institute on Science for Global Policy (ISGP)**, in partnership with **California State University, Sacramento**, announces a new conference focused on linking scientifically credible information to the formulation and implementation of sound, effective domestic and international policies. The distinctive, if not unique, ISGP model emphasizes critical debates and extended caucus discussions among highly distinguished scientists, policy makers, students, and the public. These debates seek to clarify the scientific and technological (S&T) understanding for the nonspecialists who are often responsible for making or directly influencing, local, regional, national, and global policy decisions regarding many issues including ecology (e.g., preserving native fish populations), forest fires, and water policy. ISGP conferences also provide opportunities for scientists to experience the challenging tasks routinely faced by those responsible for formulating and implementing effective policies that involve S&T issues.

The debate/caucus model, pioneered by the ISGP, has been successfully used to examine a wide range of contemporaneously critical issues, including Emerging and Persistent Infectious Diseases; Food Safety, Security, and Defense; and Climate Change.

ISGP’s critical debates and caucuses at CSUS are open to the public and press and have been organized in conjunction with CSUS students and faculty. This conference is designed to provide a forum in which the scientific and technological issues facing societies worldwide can be viewed through the personal lifestyle choices and community-wide decisions facing those in the Sacramento area.

The ISGP-CSUS Conference on Water and Fire: Impacts of Climate Change

The conference program will be convened in two parts:

1. On Sunday, April 10, 2016, three internationally recognized scientists will be debated concerning the content of their respective policy position papers. In these papers, the authors express their views of current realities and scientific opportunities and challenges, and present their recommendations for policy related to the relationship between climate change, water, and energy. The scientists will defend their positions in 90-minute sessions that involve critical questioning by a panel of up to 45 debaters, composed of CSUS students and faculty, scientists, academics, as well as representatives from government, the private sector, and the community *writ large*. Participants in the audience also will be able to submit written questions for use by the moderator. Representatives from the media will be invited to observe these debates, but will not be able to pose questions during the debates.

2. On Monday, April 11, conference participants, **including those in the audience who attended the debates on Sunday**, will join small-group caucuses. These caucuses will seek to identify areas of consensus and actionable next steps to be considered by governmental and societal leaders. The conference concludes with a plenary session that seek to synthesize the conclusions from all the individual caucuses. These conclusions as well as summaries of the debates are prepared by the ISGP, in cooperation with CSUS students and faculty, for publication in a free, publicly available book that also contains the policy position papers.

To learn more about the ISGP-CSUS conference “**Water and Fire: Impacts of Climate Change**” and how to obtain an invitation, contact CSUS professor Dr. Michelle Stevens at stevensm@csus.edu.